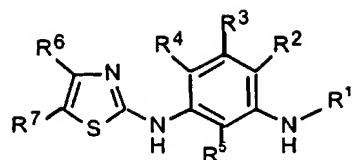


CLAIMS

1. A method for treating cerebral ischemia comprising administering a compound capable of depleting mast cells or a compound inhibiting mast cells degranulation to a human in need of such treatment.
 2. A method according to claim 1 for treating for treating cerebral ischemia comprising administering a c-kit inhibitor to a human in need of such treatment.
- 10
3. A method according to claim 2, wherein said c-kit inhibitor c-kit inhibitor is a non-toxic, selective and potent c-kit inhibitor wherein it is unable to promote death of IL-3 dependent cells cultured in presence of IL-3.
 - 15 4. A method according to claim 1 or 3 wherein said inhibitor is selected from the group consisting of:
 - 2-(3-amino)arylamino-4-aryl-thiazoles,
 - pyrimidine derivatives, more particularly N-phenyl-2-pyrimidine-amine derivatives,
 - indolinone derivatives, more particularly pyrrol-substituted indolinones,
 - 20 - monocyclic, bicyclic aryl and heteroaryl compounds,
 - and quinazoline derivatives.
 - 25 5. A method according to claim 4, wherein said c-kit inhibitor is selected from compounds belonging to the 2-(3-amino)arylamino-4-aryl-thiazoles of formula III:

**FORMULA III**

wherein R¹ is :

- 5 a) a linear or branched alkyl group containing from 1 to 10 carbon atoms optionally substituted with at least one heteroatom, notably a halogen selected from I, Cl, Br and F, or bearing a pendant basic nitrogen functionality;
- 10 b) an aryl or heteroaryl group optionally substituted by an alkyl or aryl group optionally substituted with an heteroatom, notably a halogen selected from I, Cl, Br and F or bearing a pendant basic nitrogen functionality;
- 15 c) a sulfonyl or a -SO₂-R group wherein R is an alkyl, aryl or heteroaryl substituted with an heteroatom, notably a halogen selected from I, Cl, Br and F or bearing a pendant basic nitrogen functionality;
- 20 d) a -CO-NH-R, -CO-R, -CO-OR or a -CO-NRR' group, wherein R and R' are independently chosen from H or an aryl, heteroaryl, alkyl and cycloalkyl group optionally substituted with at least one heteroatom, notably a halogen selected from I, Cl, Br and F, or bearing a pendant basic nitrogen functionality;

R² is hydrogen, halogen or a linear or branched alkyl group containing from 1 to 10 carbon atoms, trifluoromethyl or alkoxy;

R³ is hydrogen, halogen or a linear or branched alkyl group containing from 1 to 10 carbon atoms, trifluoromethyl or alkoxy;

R⁴ is hydrogen, halogen or a linear or branched alkyl group containing from 1 to 10 carbon atoms, trifluoromethyl or alkoxy;

R⁵ is hydrogen, halogen or a linear or branched alkyl group containing from 1 to 10 carbon atoms, trifluoromethyl or alkoxy;

R⁶ is one of the following:

- (i) an aryl group such as phenyl or a substituted variant thereof bearing any combination, at any one ring position, of one or more substituents such as halogen, alkyl groups containing from 1 to 10 carbon atoms, trifluoromethyl, and alkoxy;
 - (ii) a heteroaryl group such as a 2, 3, or 4-pyridyl group, which may additionally bear any combination of one or more substituents such as halogen, alkyl groups containing from 1 to 10 carbon atoms, trifluoromethyl and alkoxy;
 - (iii) a five-membered ring aromatic heterocyclic group such as for example 2-thienyl, 3-thienyl, 2-thiazolyl, 4-thiazolyl, 5-thiazolyl, which may additionally bear any combination of one or more substituents such as halogen, an alkyl group containing from 1 to 10 carbon atoms, trifluoromethyl, and alkoxy;
 - iv) H, an halogen selected from I, F, Cl or Br; NH₂, NO₂ or SO₂;
- and R⁷ is one of the following:
- (i) an aryl group such as phenyl or a substituted variant thereof bearing any combination, at any one ring position, of one or more substituents such as halogen, alkyl groups containing from 1 to 10 carbon atoms, trifluoromethyl, and alkoxy;
 - (ii) a heteroaryl group such as a 2, 3, or 4-pyridyl group, which may additionally bear any combination of one or more substituents such as halogen, alkyl groups containing from 1 to 10 carbon atoms, trifluoromethyl and alkoxy;
 - (iii) a five-membered ring aromatic heterocyclic group such as for example 2-thienyl, 3-thienyl, 2-thiazolyl, 4-thiazolyl, 5-thiazolyl, which may additionally bear any combination of one or more substituents such as halogen, an alkyl group containing from 1 to 10 carbon atoms, trifluoromethyl, and alkoxy.
 - iv) H, an halogen selected from I, F, Cl or Br; NH₂, NO₂ or SO₂.

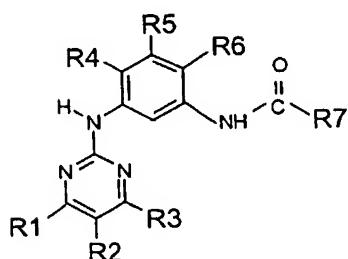
6. A method according to one of claims 3 to 5, wherein said c-kit inhibitor is an inhibitor of activated c-kit.

7. A method according to claim 6, wherein said inhibitor is capable of inhibiting constitutively activated-mutant c-kit.

5 8. A method according to one of claims 3 to 5, wherein said activated c-kit inhibitor is capable of inhibiting SCF-activated c-kit.

9. A method according to claim 4, wherein said inhibitor is selected from the group consisting of N-phenyl-2-pyrimidine-amine derivatives having the formula II :

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Wherein R1, R2 and R3 are independently chosen from H, F, Cl, Br, I, a C1-C5 alkyl or a cyclic or heterocyclic group, especially a pyridyl group;

15 R4, R5 and R6 are independently chosen from H, F, Cl, Br, I, a C1-C5 alkyl, especially a methyl group; and R7 is a phenyl group bearing at least one substituent, which in turn possesses at least one basic site, such as an amino function.

20 10. A method according to claim 9, wherein said inhibitor is the 4-(4-méthylpipérazine-1-ylméthyl)-N-[4-méthyl-3-(4-pyridine-3-yl)pyrimidine-2-ylamino]phényl]-benzamide.

11. A method for treating and/or preventing or delaying renal cerebral ischemia comprising administering to a human in need of such treatment a compound that is a selective, potent and non toxic inhibitor of activated c-kit obtainable by a screening method which comprises :

- 5 a) bringing into contact (i) activated c-kit and (ii) at least one compound to be tested; under conditions allowing the components (i) and (ii) to form a complex,
- b) selecting compounds that inhibit activated c-kit,
- c) testing and selecting a subset of compounds identified in step b), which are unable to promote death of IL-3 dependent cells cultured in presence of IL-3.

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12. A method according to claim 11, wherein the screening method further comprises the step consisting of testing and selecting a subset of compounds identified in step b) that are inhibitors of mutant activated c-kit, which are also capable of inhibiting SCF-activated c-kit wild.

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13. A method according to claim 11, wherein activated c-kit is SCF-activated c-kit wild in step a).

14. A method according to one of claims 11 to 12, wherein putative inhibitors are tested
20 at a concentration above 10 µM in step a).

15. A method according to one of claims 11 to 14, wherein IL-3 is preferably present in the culture media of IL-3 dependent cells at a concentration comprised between 0.5 and 10 ng/ml, preferably between 1 to 5 ng/ml.

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16. A method according to one of claims 11 to 15, wherein IL-3 dependent cells are selected from the group consisting of mast cells, transfected mast cells, BaF3 and IC-2.

17. A method according to one of claims 11 to 16, wherein the extent to which component (ii) inhibits activated c-kit is measured *in vitro* or *in vivo*.
18. A method according to one of claims 11 to 17, further comprising the step consisting of testing and selecting compounds capable of inhibiting c-kit wild at concentration below 1 μ M.
19. A method according to one of claims 11 to 18, wherein the inhibition of mutant-activated c-kit and/or c-kit wild is measured using standard biochemical techniques such as immunoprecipitation and western blot.
20. A method according to one of claims 11 to 19, wherein the amount of c-kit phosphorylation is measured.
21. A method according to one of claims 11 to 20, wherein identified and selected compounds are potent, selective and non-toxic c-kit wild inhibitors.
22. A method for treating and/or preventing or delaying cerebral ischemia comprising administering to a human in need of such treatment a c-kit inhibitor obtainable by a screening method comprising :
- a) performing a proliferation assay with cells expressing a mutant c-kit (for example in the transphosphorylase domain), which mutant is a permanent activated c-kit, with a plurality of test compounds to identify a subset of candidate compounds targeting activated c-kit, each having an IC₅₀ < 10 μ M, by measuring the extent of cell death,
- b) performing a proliferation assay with cells expressing c-kit wild said subset of candidate compounds identified in step (a), said cells being IL-3 dependent cells cultured in presence of IL-3, to identify a subset of candidate compounds targeting specifically c-kit,

c) performing a proliferation assay with cells expressing c-kit, with the subset of compounds identified in step b) and selecting a subset of candidate compounds targeting c-kit wild, each having an IC₅₀ < 10 μM, preferably an IC₅₀ < 1 μM, by measuring the extent of cell death.

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23. A method according to claim 22, wherein the extent of cell death is measured by ³H thymidine incorporation, the trypan blue exclusion method or flow cytometry with propidium iodide.

10 24. A method according to one of claims 1 to 23 for preventing, delaying the onset and/or treating cerebral ischemia in human including treating hypoxic-ischemic encephalopathy induced by stroke, traumatic brain injury such as cerebral edema and embolic or thromboembolic occlusions of cerebral arteries, and ischemic insults following reperfusion.

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25. A method according to one of claims 1 to 24 for preventing the onset or development of nerve cells damages few hours following either the cause of the ischemia or before, during and after reperfusion.

20 26. Use of a c-kit inhibitor to manufacture a medicament for preventing, delaying the onset and/or treating cerebral ischemia including hypoxic-ischemic encephalopathy induced by stroke, traumatic brain injury such as cerebral edema and embolic or thromboembolic occlusions of cerebral arteries, and ischemic insults following reperfusion.

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